

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 01429 01 OF 02 160919Z

ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-06 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01
INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
SAL-01 /116 W

-----160929Z 055277 /15

R 160835Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2847

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TAIPEI 1429

PASS OIF(F411)/NMFS/NOAA/DOC

TOKYO FOR RFA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, TW

SUBJECT: GROC REQUEST FOR REVISION IN U.S. FISHERIES MANAGE-
MENT ZONE ALLOTMENT, IMPLEMENTATION DATE

REF: (A) STATE 036768, (B) STATE 039521, (C) TAIPEI 1124

1. EMBASSY ASSISTANCE HAS AGAIN BEEN SOLICITED BY GROC IN
PRESENTING ITS CASE FOR REVISION OF QUOTAS ALLOTTED ROC FISHER-
MEN FOR BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ZONE. SUBSTANTIVE ARGUMENT,
BASED ON TRADITIONAL FISHERY CRITERION, IS CLAIMED PRESENCE
OF ROC VESSELS IN WHAT IS NOW U.S. FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ZONE
DURING 1975 AND 1976 IN GREATER NUMBERS AND WITH HIGHER CATCH
TONNAGES THAN DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE BEEN AWARE OF AT TIME QUOTAS
WERE SET. ACCORDING TO TAIWAN FISHERIES DIRECTOR ADMIRAL
Y. T. YAO, THE FOLLOWING VESSELS WERE ENGAGED IN COMMERCIAL
FISHING OPERATIONS IN U.S. NORTH PACIFIC WATERS WITH CATCHES
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PAGE 02 TAIPEI 01429 01 OF 02 160919Z

AS INDICATED BELOW:

TIME PERIOD	VESSEL	CATCH	SPECIES
SEPT 1975 - SEPT 1976	TUNG HONG 3	549 MT	SABLEFISH
SEPT 1975 - SEPT 1976	FENG BANG 61	518 MT	SABLEFISH
APR 1975 - SEPT 1976	TUNG HONG 2	255 MT	SABLEFISH

APR 1975 - SEPT 1976 FENG HWA 22 203 MT SABLEFISH
(LATER RENAMED
FENG BANG 62)
APR 1975 - SEPT 1976 SHYANG MAU 12 202 MT SABLEFISH

YAO STRESSED FACT THAT CATCH FIGURES IN PARTICULAR MAY NOT HAVE BEEN REFLECTED ACCURATELY IN EARLIER OFFICIAL GROC STATISTICS, ESPECIALLY FOR FISH TAKEN AT YEAR-END BUT NOT LANDED UNTIL THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

2. BOTH YAO AND VICE MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS C.C. YANG HAVE JUST MADE URGENT REQUESTS THAT ON BASIS OF DATA JUST CITED ROC SABLEFISH ALLOCATION BE INCREASED FROM PRESENT INCIDENTAL CATCH LIMIT OF 200 TONS TO LEVEL WHICH WOULD MAKE AT LEAST ONE YEAR'S OPERATIONS BY TWO VESSELS ECONOMICALLY WORTHWHILE. THROUGH ROC EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON THEY ARE REQUESTING 2,000 TONS, BUT YAO INFORMED EMBOFF THAT THEY WOULD BE HAPPY WITH 1,500 TONS.

3. TO COMPENSATE FOR AN INCREASED QUOTA OF SABLE FISH, YAO SAID THAT GROC WOULD BE WILLING TO SURRENDER PART OF ITS 5,000 MT POLLOCK ALLOCATION, AT A RATION OF TWO TONS OF POLLOCK FOR ONE TON OF SABLEFISH--AND MIGHT BE WILLING TO GO AS HIGH AS THREE TO ONE. YAO MAINTAINED THAT DISTANCE FROM TAIWAN TO U.S. NORTH PACIFIC FISHING AREA IS SUCH THAT POLLOCK FISHING WOULD BE UNECONOMIC, GIVEN PRESENT LOW MARKET PRICE FOR THAT SPECIES. HE INDICATED THAT TAIWANESE BOATS ARE PRESENTLY MODIFIED AND OUTFITTED TO TAKE SABLEFISH, AND IN ANY CASE COULD NOT RECOUP COST OF OPERATION FOR POLLOCK FISHING
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 TAIPEI 01429 01 OF 02 160919Z

AS COULD LARGE JAPANESE VESSELS. HE ALSO NOTED THAT TAIWANESE FISHERMEN ARE NOT WELL-ADAPTED TO ARCTIC OPERATIONS AND THUS INSIST ON AVOIDING MULTIPLE TURNAROUNDS, I.E. OFFLOADING CATCH IN JAPANESE PORT OR ONTO LARGER VESSEL, THEN RETURNING REPEATEDLY TO FISHING GROUNDS. THEY INSIST, INSTEAD, ON ONLY TWO TRIPS DIRECTLY FROM TAIWAN TO NORTHERN PACIFIC AND BACK PER YEAR, WITH A MONTH'S REST BETWEEN TRIPS. THUS POLLOCK ALLOCATION IS JUDGED USELESS. WHOLESALE PRICE OF SABLEFISH, A POPULAR GOURMET ITEM IN TAIWANESE RESTAURANTS, IS MORE THAN US\$2.80 PER KILOGRAM, ENOUGH TO ALLOW HEALTHY PROFIT USING CHINESE VESSELS AND LANDING CATCH IN TAIWAN.

4. YAO OBSERVED THAT COMBINED JAPANESE, KOREAN, AND ROC ALLOCATIONS FOR SABLEFISH DID NOT ADD UP TO THE 25,000 TON PRELIMINARY FOREIGN CATCH QUOTA PROJECTIONS HE HAD RECEIVED FROM DEPARTMENT. HE WONDERED (1) IF THAT QUOTA HAD BEEN REDUCED OR SOME OTHER NATION GIVEN AN ALLOCATION HE WAS UNAWARE OF; AND IF NOT (2) COULDN'T PART OF THE REMAINDER BE GIVEN TO ROC WITHOUT DAMAGING ANYONE ELSE'S INTERESTS OR THREATENING TO DIMINISH

LONG-TERM YIELD.

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 01429 02 OF 02 160926Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TAIPEI 1429

PASS OIF(F411)/NMFS/NOAA/DOC

TOKYO FOR RFA

5. GROC WOULD ALSO LIKE US TO PULL ITS CHESTNUTS OUT OF
FIRE VIS-A-VIS AT LEAST TEN ROC FISHING VESSELS NOW REPORTEDLY
WAITING FOR INSTRUCTIONS JUST OUTSIDE OUR 200-MILE LIMIT.
THERE WAS AN APPARENT MISINTERPRETATION BY ROC EMBASSY IN
WASHINGTON OF INFORMATION PROVIDED BY DEPARTMENT AROUND THE
BEGINNING OF FEBRUARY CONCERNING DELAY IN IMPLEMENTATION OF
REQUIREMENT THAT FOREIGN FISHING VESSELS HAVE LICENSES ABOARD.
CONSEQUENTLY, GROC HAD BEEN LED TO BELIEVE THAT ALL FOREIGN
VESSELS COULD CONTINUE FISHING IN U.S. WATERS UNTIL MAY 1
INSTEAD OF ONLY THOSE FOR WHICH INFORMATION HAD BEEN RECEIVED
OFFICIALLY THAT THEY HAD BEEN APPROVED FOR LICENSING. PORTIONS
OF THE TEXT OF CONGRESSIONAL JOINT RESOLUTION 240 FORWARDED
BY EMBASSY TO GROC ON FEB. 24 AND LATER REPORTS FROM THE
CHINESE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON APPEAR TO HAVE CLEARED UP MIS-
UNDERSTANDING. HOWEVER, MOST OWNERS OF FISHING BOATS IN
QUESTION ARE SAID BY YAO TO FACT BANKRUPTCY IF THEIR VESSELS
RETURN EMPTY OR NEARLY EMPTY. CONSEQUENTLY, GROC OFFICIALS
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PAGE 02 TAIPEI 01429 02 OF 02 160926Z

ARE UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES AND FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION SPOKESMEN TO SEEK SPECIAL DISPENSATION FROM U.S. GOVERNMENT TO PERMIT FISHING ACTIVITY BY TEN VESSELS TO CONTINUE IN U.S. MANAGEMENT ZONE WATERS UNTIL MAY. ACCORDING TO YANG, IF THE 10 VESSELS WERE TO RETURN EMPTY, ABOUT 300 CREW MEMBERS WOULD STAND TO LOSE THEIR JOBS AND THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS AFFECTED WOULD EXCEED 1,000--THIS AT A TIME WHEN OTHER SECTORS OF ROC FISHING INDUSTRY HAVE BEEN HARD HIT BY EFFECTS OF OIL SPILL AT KEELUNG. EMBOFF INDICATED THAT LIKELIHOOD OF SPECIAL DISPENSATION OF KIND SOUGHT ON PURELY HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS, AND GIVEN INTERPRETATION ERROR RATHER THAN NATURAL DISASTER AS BASIC CAUSE OF PROBLEM, WERE VERY REMOTE.

6. GROC OFFICIALS CLAIM THAT THEY DID NOT ENCOURAGE PRIVATE FISHING BOAT OWNERS TO MAKE EXPENSIVE INVESTMENTS AND EXTENSIVE PREPARATIONS FOR CATCH ALLOCATION AND VESSEL PERMITS THEY KNEW WERE UNLIKELY TO MATERIALIZE. DESPITE THIS, GROC DOES APPEAR GENUINELY TO FEEL THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS OBLIGATION TO REWARD IN CONCRETE FASHION ROC'S COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE IN GIFA NEGOTIATIONS, ESPECIALLY SINCE SOME NATIONS WHICH WERE LESS COOPERATIVE SEEM TO HAVE BEEN BETTER REWARDED THAN GROC. WHAT GROC IS REQUESTING REPRESENTS LOWER PERCENTAGE OF ACTUAL SABLEFISH TAKE IN PAST YEARS THAN HAS BEEN AWARDED TO OTHER COUNTRIES VIS-A-VIS OTHER SPECIES, YAO ARGUED.

7. EMBASSY BELIEVES GROC AT PRESENT IS LESS INTERESTED IN MAJOR PERMANENT SUBSTANTIVE REVISION OF QUOTAS THAN IT IS IN SAVING FACE. EVEN A MINOR ADJUSTMENT OR ADJUSTMENTS, SUCH AS TRADEOFF OF POLLOCK FOR 1,000 OR 1,500 TONS OF SABLEFISH, AND GRANTING OF LICENSES FOR TWO LONG-LINERS, PROBABLY WOULD BE SUFFICIENT.
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Message Attributes

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